

Appl. No.: 10/820,214
Amdt. dated 01/31/2006
Reply to Office action of August 3, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;
operating a carousel based on said evaluating;
picking items from the carousel in response to said operating; and
filling a restocking package with said picked items;
~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein said picking comprise:
identifying a carousel item printer;
printing a barcode label for the item;
waiting for a barcode label scan message;
moving the carousel; and
waiting for a scan of the barcode corresponding to the item picked.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 additionally comprising
generating an exception list for items not in the carousel.
4. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;
operating a carousel based on said evaluating;
picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;
filling a restocking package with said picked items;
generating an exception list for items not in the carousel;
~~The method of claim 3~~ additionally comprising:
identifying a non-carousel item printer; and
generating a bar code for each item on said exception list.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein said queue of requests
contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of patients.

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7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein said queue of requests contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of dispensing devices.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein said queue of requests contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of decentralized locations.

9. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of user
configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;

filling a restocking package with said picked items; and

~~The method of claim 1 additionally comprising~~ checking admission, discharge, transfer and order change information for each item in the queue.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein said evaluating is performed dynamically.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein said user configurable priorities for evaluating the queue are based on the time of day.

12. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating; and

filling a restocking package with said picked items;

~~The method of claim 1 wherein~~ said operating a carousel based on said evaluating is paused, said method additionally comprising picking an item from the carousel on-demand during said pause.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 additionally comprising performing dose calculations when a request for an item in the queue is a dose and the specific dose is not present in said carousel.

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14. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 additionally comprising displaying a plurality of items to be picked wherein said items comprise a kit in response to an order for the kit.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 additionally comprising manually checking the contents of a restocking package.

16. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;

filling a restocking package with said picked items; and

~~The method of claim 1 additionally comprising determining if an item to be picked belongs in said queue.~~

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said determining includes determining based on a set of fill priorities.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein said determining includes determining based on a status of the carousel.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 additionally comprising tracking a lot number for each item stocked into the carousel.

20. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;

filling a restocking package with said picked items; and

~~The method of claim 1 additionally comprising determining the frequency with which an item is picked, and identifying a bin to contain the item based on said frequency.~~

21. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

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evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;

filling a restocking package with said picked items; and

~~The method of claim 1 additionally comprising~~ determining the frequency with which an item is picked, and removing said item from the carousel when the frequency falls below a predetermined value.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 additionally comprising adding said item to the carousel when the frequency is above said predetermined value.

23. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating; and

filling a restocking package with said picked items;

~~The method of claim 1 wherein~~ when an item in said queue is located in a controlled substance vault, said method additionally comprising:

sending a request to open the door of the vault.

24. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating;

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;

filling a restocking package with said picked items; and

~~The method of claim 1 additionally comprising~~ processing returned items.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said processing of returned items comprises:

crediting an account for a returned item;

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returning the item to the carousel; and
updating the carousel's inventory records.

26. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;
operating a carousel based on said evaluating;
picking items from the carousel in response to said operating; and
filling a restocking package with said picked items;
wherein, the ~~The method of claim 1~~ additionally comprising a cycle counting process
comprising:

presenting a bin for counting; and
accepting the count along with a date and time.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said cycle counting process is based
on one of DEA codes and previously identified items.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said cycle count process is initiated at
scheduled times.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2 additionally comprising
generating a request for an item whenever the quantity of said item falls below a par value.

30. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of
user configurable priorities;
operating a carousel based on said evaluating;
picking items from the carousel in response to said operating;
filling a restocking package with said picked items; and
generating a request for an item whenever the quantity of said item falls below a par
value. ~~The method of claim 29~~ wherein said par value is a dynamic value based on one of current
usage and historic usage.

31. - 39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

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filling a restocking package with items in a centralized storage location;
loading a plurality of restocking packages into a cart;
delivering the cart containing the plurality of restocking packages to a dispensing device
at a decentralized location; and
connecting said cart carrying said plurality of restocking packages to the dispensing
device;
wherein said cart contains a chip having information about the contents of said cart, said
method additionally comprising dispensing from said cart, and modifying the information in said
chip in response to said dispensing; and
~~The method of claim 39~~ wherein said centralized location includes an automation device,
said method additionally comprising returning said cart to said centralized location, and
connecting said cart to said automation device, said automation device accessing said
information in said chip.

41. (Cancelled)